INDEX

TO

ENGINEERING NEWS

FOR THE YEARS

1890 TO 1899 INCLUSIVE

COMPILED BY

MARY E. MILLER

Graduate Pratt Institute Library School, Librarian Equitable
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PUBLISHER'S PREFACE.

The need of some means of reference to back volumes of Engineering News more convenient than the indexes to the separate volumes has long been evident to its editors and managers. In 1895 work was begun upon a general card index to Engineering News and it has been added to, year by year, until in January, 1900, it was completed for the ten years 1890 to 1899 inclusive.

This card index was found so great a convenience in the office that it was determined to make it available to the readers of Engineering News generally by publication in book form. For this purpose the card index was thoroughly revised and all references to minor notes of current news and matter of only temporary importance were eliminated from it. Thus the work was brought within reasonable limits of size, and its usefulness for reference was increased by the fact that the searcher is not misled into looking up articles too brief or unimportant to be worth the trouble. At the same time the whole mass of references was gone over critically by the editorial staff, nomenclature was systematized, cross-references were added and every endeavor was used to make the work a convenient guide to the working engineer in making reference to his back volumes of Engineering News.

The method of referencing adopted is simple and has the advantage that the volumes are referred to by years and not by volume numbers in roman numerals, according to the common custom. It will be understood that there are two volumes of Engineering News published in each calendar year, one containing the issues from January to June inclusive, the other those from July to December inclusive. The roman numerals i and ii are used to distinguish these two volumes, and the last two figures of the year only are given. Thus "93, i—346" is a reference to the first volume of 1893, page 346. Articles accompanied by illustrations are denoted by an asterisk (*), while articles accompanied by an inset sheet of drawings are marked by a dagger (†). These marks will be found very helpful in selecting the most important articles on a subject where a large number of references are given under one head.

In using the index, it is well to bear in mind that articles should be looked for under general heads and not under proper names. Thus a description of a Michigan Central locomotive would be found under "Locomotives," and not under "Michigan Central." A paper on the water-works of Allegheny would be under "Water-works," and not under Allegheny. On the other hand, special subjects should be looked for under the special heads as well as under the general ones. Thus canal boats will be found under that head and not under "boats;" electric railways are referred to under that head and not under "railways."

Another good rule to bear in mind in searching for information on a given subject is to look under other and kindred heads, as well as under

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the particular one on which information is desired. Machines are often described in connection with articles referring to work upon which the machines are employed and a separate reference to the machines may not be made in the index. In many cases a single paper has been indexed under two, three or more heads; but this was not always possible. The searcher who does not find what he wants under the first heading tried, therefore, should look under other headings before concluding that the desired information cannot be found. A specification for masonry may not be found under either the heads "specifications" or "masonry," for example, but may be found in articles descriptive of piers, bridges, dams or other works of masonry construction.

Many of the older subscribers to Engineering News will be disappointed, we presume, because this index does not cover years previous to 1890. For many reasons, however, it was deemed best not to include earlier volumes. To have done so would have further delayed its publication, made the work more bulky and costly and would have been of no benefit to the great majority of Engineering News' subscribers, who do not possess and cannot obtain these earlier volumes. For subscribers who desire a general index to these earlier volumes the best available is the "General Index to Engineering Literature from 1884 to 1891," edited by Prof. J. B. Johnson and published by the Association of Engineering Societies. In this work the references to Engineering News were carried back of 1884 and were made to include all the important articles published in this journal from its establishment in 1874.

There was a time, well within the memory of men now living, when the practice of engineering covered so narrow a field that an engineer might carry in his brain and his notebook all the professional knowledge he needed to guide him in his work. That time has long been past. Engineering has become a broad term, covering a large number of highly developed specialties. The accumulated data and records of the work done in these specialties have become so voluminous that only by their systematic collection and preservation in engineering literature can they be made available to the working engineer.

For convenient reference to this literature, however, systematic indexes are indispensable. The engineering societies have made a good beginning in this direction. The Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Mining Engineers and the American Railway Master Mechanics' Association have each been covered by separate indexes, which will be found most useful by the searcher after information who can obtain access to the volumes to which the indexes refer.

Engineering News is the first engineering journal to publish a complete general index to its volumes for a series of years. This index not only covers a broader range of engineering work than any of the Society Transactions referred to, but is believed to be a more complete and convenient means of reference to the matter which it covers than any other index to engineering literature ever published.

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